Wherever I am, wherever I'm heading, I want to fly to my desires with my own strength
The long-awaited Volume 1 can be found in shops around December 26!

桜小路かのこ

CHAPTER 5

ラストノーツ

Une femme sans parfum est une femme sans avenir

FC [BLACK BIRD] 全18巻 絶賛連載中!! 詳しくは107Pへ

Anti-spirit incense...

...is a mysterious fragrant wood that can summon the deceased when lighted.

Nitouk-oudou branch store sells anti-spirit incense but their supply has been cut off following the death of Goshima, their supplier. In order to search for clues, Aki and Haru started living together with Goshima's granddaughter Emiru-chan. With her mother being named a "degrading woman" Emiru-chan is hated by the entirety of her home village. her grandfather knew of Emiru-chan's painful experiences, but still wouldn't leave the village... Because of that, Emiru-chan thought she was hated by her grandfather. Aki and Haru noticed Emiru-chan's misunderstanding regarding her grandfather and persuaded her to "light the anti-spirit incense...?!

CHARACTERS

Chiaki "Aki"

Nitouk-oudou branch store's shop-keeper. Has a sensitive nose.

Haruomi "Haru"

The other shop-keeper. Loves money.

Emiru chan

A bravely living with Aki and Haru

THIS IS REAL.
APOLOGI-ZING WHILE FORCING A SMILE.
JUST LIKE HOW HE WAS WHEN HE WAS ALIVE,
IT'S REALLY JII-CHAN.
AHH...

JII-CHAN IS REALLY DEAD.
HE'S REALLY GONE...
AH...
RUO
RUO

YOU CAN CRY.
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S GREAT THAT I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO JII-CHAN ONE LAST TIME
UM. .
I FEEL LIKE A BURDEN'S BEING LIFTED.
BECAUSE..
...I KNOW THAT I'M LOVED.
ALL THIS TIME, I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT JII-CHAN.. JUST SUDDENLY WENT SOMEWHERE

Let's just get take out
NO. I'M TIRED
HARU~
AH . NOW THAT I'M RELIEVED, I'M SUPER HUNGRY.
MM.
THAT'S GREA-
GRUMBLE
GROWL GROWL GROWL
IT'S ALREADY THIS TIME OF DAY
INSTEAD OF HAVING DINNER, HE CAME TO LOOK FOR ME ..

...AKI-SAN.
HARU-SAN.
I REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU...
IF IT WASN'T FOR THEM,
WHAT WOULD I BE LIKE NOW...?
AH, EMIRU-CHAN.
IN HIS LAST WORDS, JII-SAN...
...SAID THAT WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW IS AT HIS HOUSE
I THINK HE WAS TALK-ING ABOUT THE ANTI-SPIRIT IN-CENSE
WELL IT CAN ONLY HAVE BEEN ABOUT THAT
SO SO-METIME SOON
AH, OKAY.
I'LL GO AND LOOK, THEN.

EH?
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'LL CONTACT YOU IF I FIND ANYTHING.
AH, BUT I PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANY IDEAS IF I'M BY MYSELF...
EH...
I...
...REALLY SHOULD GO BACK.
HEY, WAIT!
BUT
I'D HOPED I COULD STAY HERE
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK

...THAT YOU WANT TO WAIT FOR YOUR MOTHER TO RETURN. .?!
CAN IT BE...
YOU DON'T PLAN TO STAY HERE?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
DO YOU UNDERS-TAND, EMIRU-CHAN?
YOUR MOTHER IS ACTUALLY STILL ALIVE.
AKI!
...LEFT EMIRU-CHAN...
THAT PERSON ...

IT'S UP TO EMIRU-CHAN TO DECIDE HOW SHE WANTS TO LIVE.
BUT HARU...
EMIRU-CHAN,
YOU'VE SEEN THE BALANCE IN THE BANK PASSBOOK.
THOSE WERE JII-SAN'S LAST WORDS, RIGHT?
YOU'LL NEED MONEY NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE.
EVEN IF YOU'RE LIVING ALONE,
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND A GUARANTOR.
OF COURSE, IF YOU CHOSE TO LIVE HERE,
WE WOULD BE GLAD OF THAT AS WELL.
You can help us get rid of Bugs.
THE DECISION IS YOURS.
...
I DON'T KNOW...
...WHETHER MY HOME IS IN THAT VILLAGE

BUT I'LL FEEL LONELY IF I DON'T STAY AT THAT HOUSE.
THAT HOUSE...
...IS FILLED WITH MEMORIES OF ME AND JII-CHAN.
IT'S MY MOST IMPORTANT HOME.
I'M SORRY, AKI-SAN.
I WAS REALLY HAPPY...
...WHEN YOU TOLD ME THAT I WASN'T ALONE...
.....

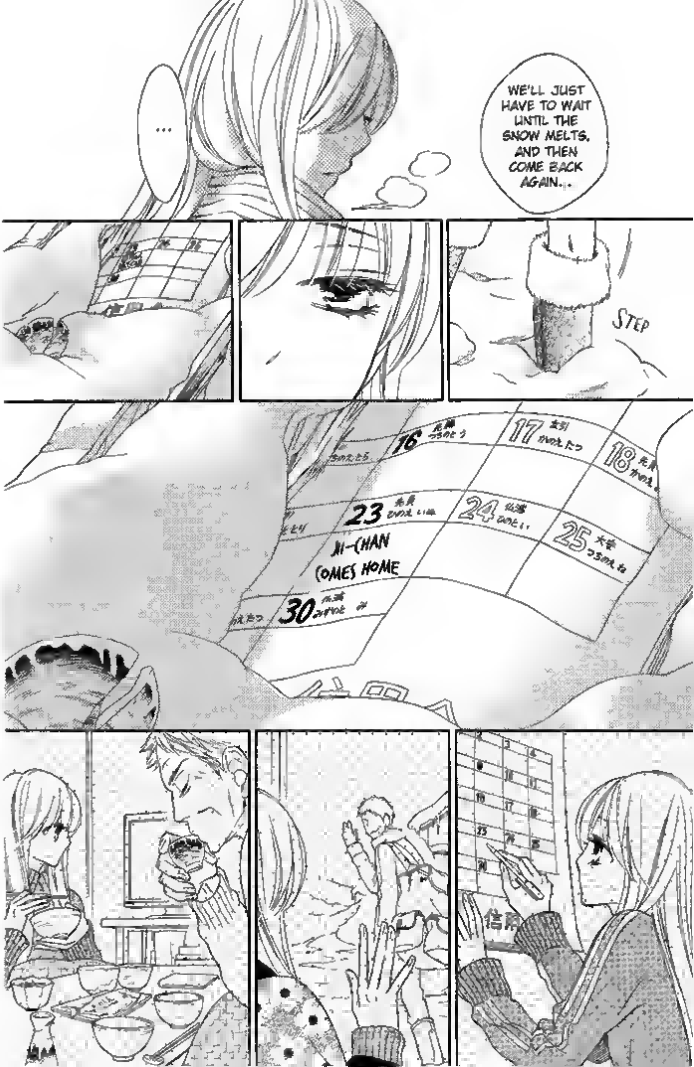
TCH...
SITS DOWN
とりあえず
beep
GRAB
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN ENDURE
THAT HOUSE WAS ALREADY OLD, AND IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE SOMEONE STAYED THERE
...ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE, I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER
JII-CHAN'S BELONGINGS STILL NEED TO BE SORTED OUT—
IF...
BUT EMIRU-CHAN,
YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE ALONE IN THAT VILLAGE?
NO ONE'S GOING TO HELP YOU OUT, RIGHT?

WILL I STILL BE WELCOME HERE...?
WHEN THAT TIME COMES,
WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

EMIRU-CHAN,
WE'LL SEND YOU BACK.
CAN WE SEARCH FOR CLUES ON THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE WHILE WE'RE THERE?
AH, YES
IT'S DECIDED.
I SHOULD JUST. .
...LIVE AT EMIRU-CHAN'S HOUSE...
HUH?

ALL RIGHT. LET'S GET SOME FOOD.
PICK ANY-THING YOU LIKE.
AH... WAIT.
...JUST KIDDING.
..Due to low atmospheric pres-sure, coastal areas are expe-riencing heavy snowfall
Today's level of snowfall is..

...
...
MY HOME...
TOTALLY CRUSHED ...
WAS IT BECAUSE OF THE SNOW?
JUST ONE DAY, AND IT BECAME LIKE THIS?
WHILE I WAS IN TOKYO,
I WASN'T ABLE TO CLEAR THE SNOW OFF THE ROOF
SO WITH THE HEAVY SNOWFALL FROM YESTERDAY, IT COULDN'T BEAR THE WEIGHT ANYMORE AND CAME DOWN?
AH...
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET ANY-THING OUT LIKE THIS


...
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE SNOW MELTS, AND THEN COME BACK AGAIN...
STEP
16
17
18
23
XI-CHAN COMES HOME
24
25
30

AH!

GOSHIMA!
TA-KESHI-KUN...?
STEP
STEP
WHERE DID YOU GO?!
JII-CHAN WASN'T HERE EITHER...
LIM, THIS IS...
...MY CHILD-HOOD FRIEND...
...WHO ARE THEY?
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M NITOU.
BECAUSE OF WORK WITH EMIRU-CHAN'S JII-SAN...
EMI-RU-CHAN?

MEANING YOU WERE WITH THEM ALL ALONG?
SHOVE
WHAT WORK?
YOU'RE SOME-THING.
YOU REALLY DO HAVE SKILLS IN TRICKING MEN!
AND HERE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU
NICE GOING,
BRINGING MEN BACK WHILE JII-CHAN IS AWAY...
JII-CHAN...
...IS DEAD.

...EH?
HE DIED OVER-SEAS.
THEN I WENT TO TOKYO.
...AND WAS TAKEN CARE OF BY THESE TWO.
I...
THAT...
... DIDN'T KNOW. ..
STEP
AH...
SMILE
STEP
STEP

BLUSH
WHA...!
YOU LIKE EMI-RU-CHAN, RIGHT?
I...
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
BUT WEREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT HER?
THAT...
COUNTS AS WORRIED.
IT'S NORMAL TO BE WORRIED.
YOU SAY YOU WERE WORRIED, BUT WHAT DID YOU DO ABOUT IT?

EH...?
BY THE WAY, WHEN DID YOU NOTICE SHE WAS GONE?
DID YOU ASK WHERE SHE'D GONE?
OR TRY LOOKING FOR HER?
YOU MIGHT HAVE COME AROUND...
...TO SEE IF SHE WAS BACK OR NOT...
HUH?
BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU THINK OF...
...CLEARING THE SNOW OFF THE ROOF WHILE YOU WERE HERE?

AKI-SAN?
HE SEEMS DIFFERENT FROM USUAL...
YOU KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN IF NO ONE DID ANYTHING, RIGHT
IT'S EXACTLY THIS ATTITUDE OF YOU PEOPLE
...THAT MALI-CIOUSLY...
...CAUSED THE COLLAPSE OF THIS HOUSE!
GRAB
SKILLED IN TRICKING MEN?
WHAT DID EMIRU DO
...

WHILE YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE TRICKED...
...DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE THE VICTIM!

LET GO OF ME...!
LE-
PULL
BE-CAU-SE—
UGH ..

BECAUSE EVE-RYONE...
I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER,
BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.
IF I WANT TO LIVE HERE, THEN THAT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN DO...!
THE WHOLE VILLAGE SHUNS THE GOSHIMAS.
IF I DON'T DO THE SAME, I'LL BE REPRI-MANDED...
PUSH
THUD

THEN BE LIKE THAT...
.. YOUR WHOLE LIFE.
LIVE WITH ALL THOSE EXCUSES,
RIGHT HERE.
IN THE MEANTIME,
WE'LL BE TAKING THE PRINCESS WITH US.
YOU HEAR?

BECAUSE YOU DON'T EVEN QUALIFY TO REGRET IT.
!!
LET'S GO.
EMIRU-CHAN.
BUT MY HOME...
ALTHOUGH THIS IS AN IMPORTANT HOME
UNTIL IT'S REBUILT, YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO STAY

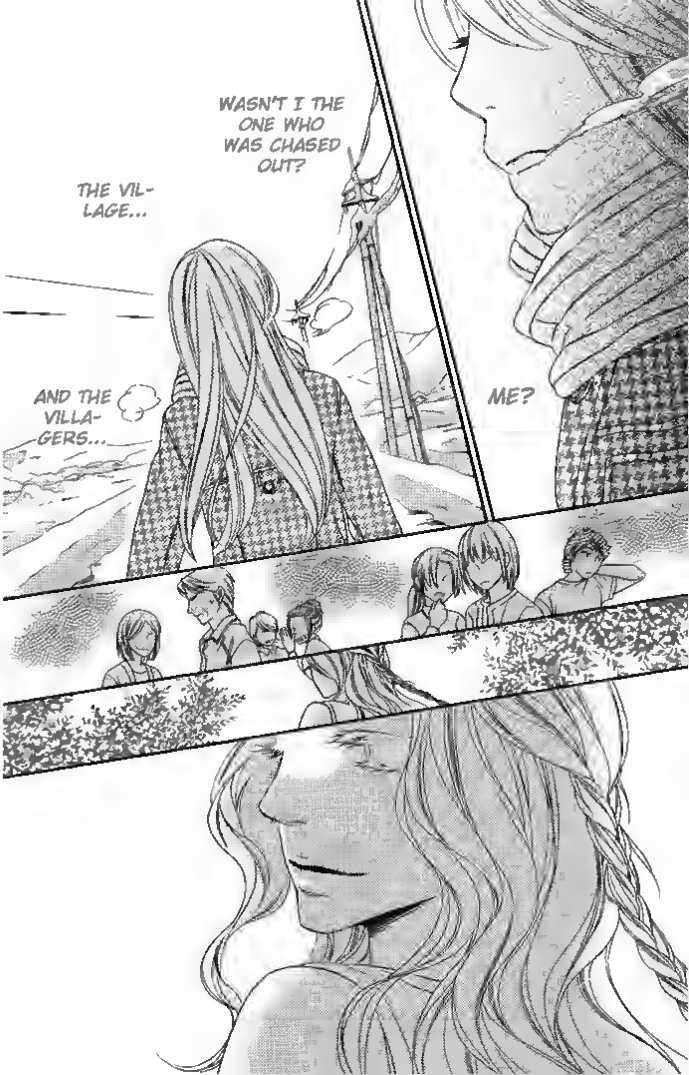
SHALL WE GO?

...OKAY.
EMIRU!
GO-SHI
GOSHI-MA.
...GO-

...TAKE-CHAN.
AC-TUALLY, I...
I...
EMIRU,
WHEN I WAS AWAY,
YOU AC-TUALLY HELPED ME BY CLEARING THE SNOW,
OTHERWISE, THE SNOW WOULD'VE BEEN THIC-KER.
I KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT ME A LOT
BUT BE-CAUSE YOU STOOD SO FAR AWAY,
I THOUGHT IT MI-GHT'VE BEEN MY IMAGINA-TION...
EVEN SO, ONLY TAKE-CHAN WOULD DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT
I'M REALLY HAPPY.

THANK YOU.
TAKE CARE.
...
WAIT!
WAIT A MOMENT ...!

ARE YOU LEA-VING?
ARE YOU ABANDO-NING THIS VILLAGE...?!
EMIRU!
EMI-RU...
...
ABANDON?


WASN'T I THE ONE WHO WAS CHASED OUT?
THE VIL-LAGE...
AND THE VILLA-GERS...
ME?

I'LL ABAN-DON THEM ALL.
WHAT IF EMIRU-CHAN'S MOTHER...
...RE-TURNS?
...BUT...
AFTER ALL, SHE ABANDONED HER AND LEFT.
.. HER MOTHER BEING ALIVE..
...MIGHT NOT BE GOOD NEWS...
I GUESS ...
...
SEE HOW IT GOES.
DO NO-THING,

...ARE THROWN AWAY.
MY BODY FEELS LIGHT.
I...
...CAN GO WHEREVER I WANT...
chatter...
IT WOULD'VE BEEN MORE PAINFUL IF SHE WERE HERE, BUT ACTED COLD...
HER HOUSE COL-LAPSED
IT'S SURELY NOT A PURE RE-LATIONSHIP
THEY'RE OUTSI-DERS..
WITH TWO MEN BESIDE HER?
WHAT IS SHE THINKING,
WHAT WILL SHE DO FROM NOW ON...?
STEP
ALL THE OTHERS...
VALUABLE MEMO-RIES...
...ARE KEPT INSIDE THE HEART.

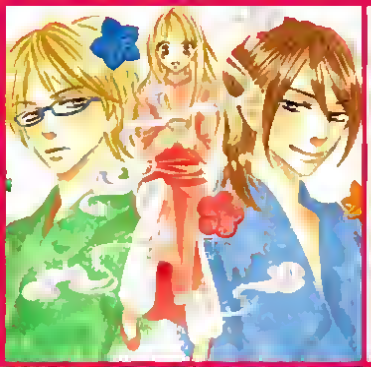
I'LL GO TO A PLACE I LIKE.
NO MATTER WHERE IT IS,
AKI-SAN, HARU-SAN!
THE CLOCK AT THE MEETING HALL RUNS FIVE MINUTES LATE
WE'LL MISS THE BUS IF WE DON'T HURRY.
AND THE NEXT TRAIN IS IN ANOTHER TWO HOURS!
...
...SHE'S SMILING

IT'S OUT OF STYLE...
Why did it become like this...?
HOW IS IT...?
UM.
I TRIED ON MY UNIFORM...
How is it?
AL-THOUGH...
...THEY CANCELLED MY ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION BECAUSE I FORGOT TO PAY THE SCHOOL FEES...
WELL, IT'S GOOD YOU DIDN'T SPEND MONEY UNNECESSARILY.
UM, BUT.
AFTER JII-SAN'S DEATH, IT WASN'T A GOOD TIME TO BE PAYING SCHOOL FEES, EITHER.
THIS REALLY DOESN'T COUNT AS GETTING IN THROUGH THE BACK DOOR?
IT'LL SOUND BAD IF IT GETS AROUND...
...THAT THIS IS CHARITY DONATION.
AND YOU DID PASS THE ENTRANCE EXAM!

IT'S A GOOD THING EMIRU-CHAN STUDIES.
DON'T WORRY,
BECAUSE STUDYING IS ALL I HAVE TO OCCUPY ME WHEN I'M ALONE WITH NOTHING TO DO
IT'S NOT A BAD SCHOOL.
THIS SPECIALIZED SCHOOL.
WE STUDIED THERE UNTIL MARCH
I SHOULD GET GOING, THEN.
YOU HAVEN'T MEMORIZED THE WAY, RIGHT?
YOU CAN GO TOGETHER.
AH, WAIT.
EH?
AKI!
I SEE.
THEY'VE ALREADY GRADUATED...

HURRY UP!
STEP
HOW DO I TIE THIS~?
HARU~
STEP
YOU STILL CAN'T RE-MEMBER, HUH?
GIVE IT HERE!
...THEN...
SO I DIDN'T MEET THE ATTENDANCE REQUIRE-MENTS.
AND NOW I HAVE TO REPEAT MY THIRD YEAR!
UM... I TAKE DAYS OFF WHENEVER I DON'T FEEL WELL
DIDN'T AKI-SAN GRA-DUATE ALREADY...?

...I'LL BE GOING TO SCHOOL WITH AKI-SAN?
EMIRU-CHAN,
YOU LOOK REALLY OUT OF FASHION.
!
TO BE CONTINUED
Emiru can't say bad farewell to her painful past. Next up, the beginning of a heartracing chapter!



Last Note - Chapter 5

by Sakurakouji Kanoko

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